THE DEAD ANT QUEEN

SHE HAD LIVED FOURTEEN YEARS AND HAD MANY COURTIERS.

A Touching Scene at the House of Sir John Lubbock-What Would Seem Trivial to the Lay Mind a Serious Matter to the Nattralist-Interesting Facts About Ants.

The waste of life in an ordinary formicary is great. Multitudes are continnally perishing beneath the careless tread of human beings and cattle. A man or woman can hardly walk the garden without destroying many lives of busy creatures intent upon errands of their daily life. Birds pick them up as a delicate morsel. Toads and serpents are fond of a menu of living ants, and other creatures prey upon them. Therefore it becomes necessary to recruit the community day by day, and the number of recruits must exceed the daily waste if the social power of the family is not to be diminished. No wonder, therefore, that the fertile queen is a person of such consequence and is so carefully guarded. But it may be asked, Is she able to meet such demands upon her fecundity! Quite so. The number of eggs which an ordinary queen can lay in any one season amounts to many thousands, and the possible capacity of a single queen no doubt reaches scores of thousands of fertile eggs.

I was permitted to note the touching interest which focuses upon the queen of a formicary while visiting Sir John Lubbock one summer morning at his home in London. This distinguished naturalist had succeeded in preserving two ant queens to a marvelous age, one of these having reached the vast antiqnity of 14 years. This longevity was due to the careful protection extended by Sir John and his attendants, for it is true of emmet herds as well as of domestic animals that they thrive under human protection. As I greeted Sir. John on the morning referred to, in response to an invitation to breakfast with him and some of his friends, I inquired at once about the health of his ancient

"Alas, doctor!" he cried, "I have sad news to tell you. My old queen is dead!"

"Dead!" I exclaimed. "This is sad news indeed. When did she die?" "Only last night," was the response,

"and I have not yet told my wife about it, for I dare say she will feel as badly over the loss as myself.'

Perhaps this may seem trivial to the ordinary lay mind, but to Sir John Lubbook and the writer it was a serious matter, for it ended one of the most interesting experiments as to the prothe world has ever known.

'May I see the queen?' I asked.

Turning aside from the waiting com-pany of distinguished persons who were to sit down with us at breakfast, want went to see the dead queen. Shape

legs turned a good and bent in the rigor of death. A crowd of courtiers surrounded her. Some were licking her, as though in loving care of her toilet. One would nip an antenna and another a leg, and by various other solicitations sought to arouse her. Alas, there was no response! It was curious and touching as well to watch their methods.

"They have not yet accepted the fact," said Sir John, "that their queen is really dead. Indeed I doubt if they are fully persuaded thereof. They have been surrounding her thus and trying to get some response from her ever since

So we left the royal deathroom. Whether this interesting creature was taken by its kindly guardian and placed in a collector's bottle, or upon an entomological pin, or left for interment at the hands of her devoted courtiers, I never learned. But no one who witnessed that scene could doubt the strong interest and affection with which the venerable green ant was regarded by her subjects.

Speaking of interment, it may not be amiss to say that ants have a curious habit of carrying the dead of their own community from the confines of the formicary, depositing them together in a convenient spot outside the bounds. So far as I have observed, they do not treat the carcass of an alien ant in this way, but appear to show this mark of respect. to those of their own community alone. This is the basis of the popular notion that ants have cemeteries for the burial of their brotherhood. I have verified the fact to the extent above stated, and the point opens an interesting field for larger and more active study by some enterprising lover of emmet life.

It has been said that the ant egg when dropped by the queen is seized by one of the attendants and carried away to the nurses. These receive it and place it in one of the chambers along with others of its kind. In a little while the egg becomes a little white worm, or larva, with a greedy appetite for sweets. It is as helpless as a human baby and as dependent upon the care of adults. That care is not wanting. One can hardly fail to notice also the common characteristic of maternal fondness in dealing with these baby ants. The nurses shift the little ones back and forth, from one position to another, as far at least as a human being can judge, without having bettered the matter in the least. Seemingly they have only indulged the jancy of a mother to move about her baby just to gratify her own affections. They even appear to me at times to take the little things up and dandle them, after the fashion of a young mother and ber first infant. However, all this may be but "anthropomorphism," a state of mind from which the observer of social insects can scarcely ever wholly escape.-Rev. H. C. McCook in Northwestern Christian Advocate.

If time is money, why can't a man pay his barber with the time he spends waiting for his turn?

A SMALL KINDNESS The Gentle Little Woman Who Gave It Ho ceived a Hig Reward.

Many years ago, when sewing machines were in their infancy, if indeed they had been invented, a little elderly bachelor entered the parlor of his boarding house and in a way peculiar to himself made this request:

"Which of you ladies will hem a couple of handkerchiefs for me?"

There was a well bred sniff of disapproval, but not one assenting voice. The only one that broke the silence recommended him to take the handkerchiefs to a seamstress who attended to such work.

"It's pretty lonesome to have no women folk belonging to you," said the old bachelor, "but I guess I can get along. Thank you, ladies, for your kindness," and he bowed himself out.

At the same moment a timid hand detained him, and a low voice said in

"Leave them with me I-I will see that they are hemmed neatly. I have s friend who will do them-for company." "Take them," said the old bachelor

gruffly; "much obliged, I'm sure." She was a gentlewoman, although she sewed for a living, as all women did

in that day who did not teach school. She replied not to jeers of her com-panions when she sat in the parlor at her work, except to say that it was a small thing to do for a fellow being.

"But he is a miser," they persisted. Nevertheless the handkerchiefs were hemmed and returned to the owner. who did not offer to pay for them, but did within the year marry the gentle soul who hemmed them.

The thereafter of their married life reads like a fairy story. Both have passed away from the prosperity which surrounded them, but in the heart of the city of Boston there is a marble block that was built with the accumulated interest of the fortune bequeathed to their son, who is no other than Montgomery Sears, the millionaire. This story, unlike most stories, is true. - Detroit Free Press.

LORD RUSSELL'S BASHFULNESS.

The Great English Barrister Was Quite Diffident In His Youth.

In his "Journalist's Notebook" Mr. Frankfort Moore tells a story of the early life of Lord Russell. It may, he says, surprise some of those persons who have been unfortunate enough to find themselves witnesses for the prosecution in cases where Lord Russell has appeared for the defense to learn that in his young days he was exceedingly shy. He has lost a good deal of his early diffi

dende, or, at any rate; he manages to prevent it betraying itself in such a way as might tend to embarrass a hostile witness. As a rule, witnesses do not

society of which my informant as well to as Lord Russell was a member he would spend the day nervously walking about the streets and apparently quite unable to collect his thoughts. Upon one occasion the proud duty devolved upon him of responding to the toast, "Ireland a Nation." Late in the afternoon my informant found him in a condition of disorderly perturbation and declaring that he had no idea of what he should say, and he felt certain that, unless he got the help of the man who afterward became my informant, he must inevitably break down.

"I laughed at him," said the gentleman who had the courage to tell the story which I have the courage to repeat, "and did my best to give him confidence. 'Sure, any fool could respond to Ireland a nation, and you'll do as well as any other.' But even this didn't give courage," continued my in-formant, "and I had to sit down and give him the chief points to touch on in his speech. He wrung my hand, and in the evening he made a fine speech, sir. Man, but it was a pity that there weren't more of the party sober enough to appreciate it!"

The Coming Railroad Engine.

"The railroad engine of the future will be a very different machine from those now in use," said T. C. Willoughby. "In the first place, it will be so arranged that it will run in a vacuum by means of air pumps. It will be of torpedo shape, in order to offer the least possible air resistance, and the air which goes into the pumps will be utilized as an additional motive power to that obtained from the steam or electricity used. Such an engine could be constructed to make at least 200 miles an hour and would wear longer than any now used, for the reason that friction would be reduced to a minimum. A combination of the principles of the present locomotive and of the Pennoyer airship would result in a revolution in the mechanical world. I am not an inventor, but I know that such a machine is feasible and will some day be perfected. "-Cincinnati Enquirer.

A Big Concern.

A commercial traveler was bragging about the magnitude of the firm he rep-

"I suppose your house is a pretty big

establishment?" said the customer. "Big? You can't have any idea of its dimensions. Last week we took an inventory of the employees and found out for the first time that three cashiers and four bookkeepers were missing. That will give you some idea of the magnitude of our business."-Manchester Guardian.

English Smarts.

First Swell (pretending to mistake for an usher a rival whom he sees standing in dress clothes at the coatroom of the theater)—Ah! Have you a programmer low.-London Answers.

MISTAKES ON THE WIRE.

Ludierous Errors Made by Telegraph Operators In Transmitting Dispatches. The funny mistakes of telegraphers

are as numerous as those charged up to proofreaders. A gentleman who has been an extensive traveler, and consequently not supposed to overlook any details, saw his wife off on a train for the slope the other day. It was supposed that everything had been arranged. The goodby and its accompaniment, had been passed, and the gentleman returned to his home. That night his wife suddenly remembered that she had left a valuable adjunct to her happiness and wrote a message to her husband which he received the following morning at his office. It read:

"Forgot. Think conductor has telegraphed for it."

He read it again, and it read as at first. "Forgot what," he murmured. And he read it again and kept reading it until the words ran together and his temples throbbed. He sent a message to his house asking the servants if Mrs. had left anything. They made no discoveries, of course. Then he sent a message to the operator at the office from which his wife's message was sent asking him to repeat it. He waited for an answer. He lost his luncheon and his dinner waiting. He remained at his office until late at night, and as he was about to leave in despair he received an answer to his. It read: "Forgot trunk. Conductor has telegraphed for it."

Sure enough, the word "trunk" had been made to read "think." But wasn't it strange that a man who had traveled all over the world should come to his own home to forget to check his wife's trunk? He laughed to himself after it was all over. But it had cost him lots

Equally funny is this one:

A lady in this city had received a let ter from her old home in Connecticut which caused her a good deal of trouble. Her answer to it was by wire. When it was delivered in the Connecticut home, it read:

"How's the weather?" What an exasperating query at such a

time! The letter referred to the lady's mother's health. The dispatch should have read, "How's mother?"

A little different is this one: A gentleman of this city sent his wife a message from Washington March 4, 1893, prepaid, and it has not been delivered up to the present writing. The correspondence between the Chicago office and the Washington and New York offices about the transaction has accumulated until the batch looks like the papers in a long continued lawsnit,-Chicago Herald.

The following is an explanation of the athlete's 'second wind,' from Out- \$3.00, \$3.25, 3.50, \$3.75 quality at 2.00 find that bashfulness is the most and had inent characteristic of higher the sufferer to fa we commence to two and three-piece suits, made from the sufferer to fa we commence to the sufferer to fa we commence to the sufferer to fa the suffer It with the gwalking about, w nation.

But I learn from and to play mar.

But I learn from and to play mar.

Bussell' for the name of pearls sounds for rowing more. This is the name of the nam

ning for a length of time they will get so to speak, rusty, and it will be with great difficulty that he will get his both lungs will open to the full. Experience in long distance running

proves the above correct. I have noticed after each cessation of a few weeks that my lungs were not so free; consequently I underwent the process of getting my "second wind," and as I practiced and got in better trim my lungs opened better, and breathing became easier with each run. "Second wind" is the full use of both lungs.

An Absentminded Builder.

think I am much of a success," said a AT Cost. gentleman yesterday. "For several months past I have been engaged in building a dollhouse for one of my children. I chose a room in the stable in which to do my work, for, with the gaslight, I was able to spend my spare house the like of which I had never seen. It was a perfect miniature house. Yesterday I told the driver to get a man to help him carry my handiwork from the stable to the children's playroom Imagine my feelings when he came back and informed me that the dollhouse was too large to pass through the door of the room in which I had built it. I had never thought of getting the house out, but my oversight so disgusted me with my work that I hired a carpenter to break it up so that it could be taken out in pieces."—Pittsburg Dispatch.

Ethan Allen's Sword.

The sword of Ethan Allen, preserved in the National museum, at Washington, is an old fashioned blade about 27 inches in length and slightly curved. The handle is made of horn or bone and is some 7 inches long. The mounting is of silver, marked with gold, but the latter is partially worn off. A dog's head of silver forms the end of the handle, and from this to the guard runs a silver chain. On one of the silver bands of the venerable leathern scabbard is the name "Ethan Allen" engrossed in large letters; on another band, "E. Brasher, Maker, N. York," while on a third band appears the name "Martin Vosburg, 1775."-Philadelphia Ledger.

"There's one thing about me that I don't understand," said Tommy thoughtfully, "and that's why it is that making marks on wall paper is such lots of fun and making 'em in copybooks in school is such hard work."

The use of Australia as a convict round was objected to by the popula-Second Swell (up to snuff)—Thanks, lion as soon as the country was seenmy man. I got one from the other fel- pied by actual colonists, and the transportation system was given up in 1857. 1 360BALDWIN ST.

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